

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 INT-05
IO-13 /099 W
-----016360 290531Z /16
R 282058Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9316

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINT SHUN PE
SUBJ: STRIKE IN SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION (SPCC) MINES

REF: (A) LIMA 2227, (B) LIMA 2414

1. SPCC OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE WORKERS AT SPCC'S ILO AND TOQUEPALA MINES HAD INITIATED THE STRIKE MARCH 27 ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR MARCH 13 AND THEN POSTPONED (REF A, PARA. 4). HE SAID THE STRIKE AT ILO WAS ALMOST 100 0/0 EFFECTIVE AND ONLY MINIMAL VITAL SERVICES WERE BEING MAINTAINED. THE SITUATION AT TOQUEPALA WAS BETTER WITH 38 0/0 OF THE WORK FORCE SHOWING UP MARCH 27 AND 45 0/0 MARCH 28. SPCC'S CUAJONE COMPLEX, WHICH IS NOT ORGANIZED, WAS OPERATING NORMALLY.

2. A NEW AND POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM AROSE AS 18 UNION LEADERS AT ILO, FIRED FOR STRIKE ACTIVITIES LAST YEAR, ENTERED INTO A HUNGER STRIKE. SPCC OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THE RECENT GOP DECISION TO REPLACE 78 HUNGER STRIKERS IN THEIR FORMER JOBS (REF B). THEY CHARACTERIZE THE ILO SITUATION AS DELICATE AND DIFFICULT BOTH FOR THE COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: THE PARTIAL ATTENDANCE OF WORKERS AT TOQUEPALA IS
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SOMEWHAT SURPRISING, GIVEN THE USUAL SOLIDARITY OF MINE WORKERS IN GENERAL, AND MINeworker LEADER VICTOR CUADROS' STRONG SUPPORT AT TOQUEPALA, IN PARTICULAR. THE HUNGER STRIKE OF THE 18 FIRED UNIONISTS AT ILO POSES A NEW PROBLEM FOR THE GOP. DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THE GOP HAS MAINTAINED A "TOUGH LINE" IN THE IMPORTANT MINING SECTOR WITH SOME SUCCESS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE RECENT REPOSITIONING OF 78 HUNGER STRIKERS FROM OTHER LABOR SECTORS,

THE GOP MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RESIST A SIMILAR SOLUTION FOR
THE 18 ILO CASES DESPITE ITS CLAIM THAT ITS DECISION ON THE GROUP
OF 78 SET NO PRECEDENT.

DECON 12/31/78. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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